

REMARKS

Claims 4-14 and 16-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 3 and 15 have been cancelled herein. Claims 16 and 17 have been added herein.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

A. Allowed Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the minor noted informalities, and claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claims 13 and 14 in independent form herein. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 14 are now allowable. New claims 16 and 17 include many of the features of allowed claims 4 and 12, respectively. Therefore, Applicant submits that new claims 16 and 17 are also allowable.

B. Formal Drawings

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the formal drawings filed on August 14, 2003 are acceptable.

C. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's inclusion in the Office Action a copy of the PTO Form 1449's that were submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 14, 2003 and January 9, 2004. Each of the references listed therein is initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were considered by the Examiner.

D. Priority Documents

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement of claim to priority and indication that certified copies of the priority documents were received.

II. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

The Examiner has made several objections to the claims. Except as noted below, Applicant submits that the above amendments to the claims overcome the noted objections. Regarding the objection to claim 7, lines 3 and 8, Applicant submits that the term "release lever sub" is appropriate because patentees are free to be their own lexicographers, and that this term is defined clearly in paragraphs 83 and 84 on pages 27-28 of the specification.

The Examiner objects to several portions of the disclosure. Applicant submits that the above amendments to the specification overcome the noted objections.

The Examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 15 has been cancelled herein. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTION

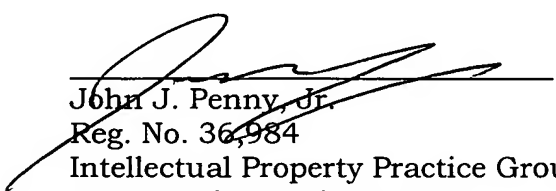
Claims 1-3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,619,796 (Rasmussen) in view of European Patent No. 620,118 (Yasuoka). Claims 1- 3 and 15 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, Applicant submits this rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any outstanding issues can be resolved through a telephone interview, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application.
However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed
for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit
Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 16, 2004
Customer No.: 21874


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